April 25, 1972

DISPOSAL SITES FOR WASTE PESTICIDE CONTAINERS IN NEVADA

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Specifications for the design of pesticide container disposal sites were developed by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Services, Bureau of Environmental Health, State Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The Soil Conservation Service is responsible for determining need and practicability and checking completion to determine if specifications have been followed. The University of Nevada Extension Service is to provide periodic monitoring of the sites and adjacent areas including wells and streams, to determine contamination. ASCS is to provide federal cost sharing through its Rural Environmental Assistance program for up to 80% of the construction cost. Construction is to be by the agricultural producers of the areas. The Bureau of Environmental Health is to provide technical assistance and to evaluate and approve or disapprove of proposed sites. The Bureau of Land Management has agreed to the use of BLM land for the sites.

SITE LOCATION

Items considered for site location are:

1. Depth to highest ground water. Bottom of disposal pit should be a minimum of 30 feet above highest ground water.

2. Site should not be in a water shed. Should be located on level ground or on top of a ridge.

3. Soil type. Soil should be sandy loam. According to Harry Smith, Pesticide Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service, most pesticides adhere to sand and organic particles and therefore this type of soil inhibits leaching.

4. The site should be partially isolated so as to prevent threat of exposure to people and domestic animals. One mile from nearest inhabited dwelling is recommended.

SITE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

1. Road. Only one access road leading to and ending at the pit area shall be constructed and maintained.

2. Protective Fencing. The pit area, sump and related facilities shall be protected by a minimum 6 foot high fence with back breaker. The fence will be constructed of new or good quality used material.

Posts. Posts may be of either steel or wood. Maximum spacing between posts shall not exceed 10 feet. Posts shall be a minimum of 8 feet in length buried 2 feet in the ground. Wood posts shall be 4 inches or more in diameter at the top, and except for cedar, locust or juniper, be treated with a wood preservative. A back breaker shall be installed on each post.

Wire. The fences shall be constructed of tightly strung woven wire, a minimum of 4 feet in height and topped with four strands of barbed wire, two wires on the posts and two wires on the back breakers. If 6 foot high woven wire is used, only two strands of barbed wire is required. The woven wire shall be as nearly climb proof and small animal proof as possible.

Berm. An earth berm, a minimum of 8 inches in height, shall be bladed along the fence to bury the bottom of the woven wire. This will divert excess runoff water from the pit area and provide some protection from small animals burrowing under the protective fence.

Gate. A metal gate with a lock shall be installed on the downhill side of the enclosure. The gate shall be as nearly climb proof and small animal proof as possible.

Warning Signs. Warning signs indicating poisonous chemical disposal area will be attached to the fence at a 30 foot minimum spacing.

3. Pit or Trench. The pit or trench shall be excavated to a minimum depth of 10 feet and a width of 15 feet. The length of the trench or pit shall depend upon the expected quantity of chemical containers to be disposed of for the desired lifespan of the pit. Crushed containers in the pit shall be covered with 24 inches of earth periodically throughout the operating season, as well as at the end of the operating season.

4. Drain Sump. A drain sump located in the enclosure near the gate shall be constructed for disposing of any chemicals remaining in the containers. The sump shall be a minimum of 4 feet wide and 6 feet long and 4 feet deep. After excavation, 30 inches of course sand shall be placed in the hole. At the end of the operating season, the 18 inch space on top of the same shall be filled with earth.

5. Can Crushing. Equipment capable of crushing and rendering all chemical containers unusable shall be placed in the pit area close to the drain sump. The crusher shall not be removed from the site during the period of operation. The crusher shall be rinsed periodically with a detergent and water for decontamination purposes.

6. Other Facilities

Building. A building approximately 6 feet by 6 feet will be constructed on the site. This building will be used for storing safety equipment and clothing, sanitary facilities, and to serve as a changing area for the pit operators.

Water supply. A minimum of 200 gallons of water shall be always available for flushing accidental chemical spills from the operating personnel and their equipment. The flushing facility will include as a minimum a type of shower and a hand faucet.

EXISTING SITES

Four proposed sites have been approved for the land disposal of waste pesticide containers. It is estimated that an additional six (6) sites will be required to adequately serve the needs of the State.

Approved locations are:

1. Humboldt County near Orvada on BLM land.
2. Pershing County near Lovelock on BLM land.
3. Lander County near Battle Mountain on BLM land.
4. Churchill County near Fallon on County land.